

Announcement of an effort to restore water quality in Knox Creek and PawPaw Creek in Hurley, Virginia

PUBLIC MEETING: Hurley Elementary and Middle School in Hurley, Virginia, on July 12, 2005 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

PURPOSE OF NOTICE: The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality and the Department of Conservation and Recreation are announcing the start of a study to restore water quality, a public comment opportunity, and public meeting.

MEETING DESCRIPTION: First public meeting on a study to restore water quality

DESCRIPTION OF STUDY: DEQ is working to identify sources of pollutants affecting the aquatic organisms and sources of bacteria contamination in the waters of Knox Creek. DEQ is also working to identify the pollutant impacting aquatic organisms in PawPaw Creek. These two streams flow through Buchanan County Virginia near Hurley.

The Knox Creek "impaired" stream segment includes the entire stream length in Virginia, from its headwaters to the Kentucky State Line. This segment is approximately 16.9 miles long. The stream is impaired for failing to meet the *Aquatic Life Use* based on violations of the general standard for aquatic organisms and failure to meet the *Recreational Use* because of fecal coliform bacteria violations.

PawPaw Creek is impaired from the Kentucky State Line to its confluence with Knox Creek, about 4.5 miles of stream reach. This stream is impaired due to failing to meet the *Aquatic Life Use* based on violations of the general standard for aquatic organisms only.

During the study, DEQ will determine the pollutants impairing the aquatic community and develop total maximum daily loads, or TMDLs, for the impaired waters. A TMDL is the total amount of a pollutant a water body can contain and still meet water quality standards. DEQ will also determine the sources of bacteria contamination and develop a TMDL for bacteria. To restore water quality, contamination levels have to be reduced to the TMDL amount.

HOW A DECISION IS MADE: The development of a TMDL includes a public comment period, including public meetings. After public comments have been considered and addressed, DEQ will submit the TMDL report to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for approval.

HOW TO COMMENT: DEQ accepts written comments by e-mail, fax or postal mail. Written comments should include the name, address and telephone number of the person commenting and be received by DEQ during the comment period. DEQ also accepts written and oral comments at the public meeting announced in this notice.

TO REVIEW FACT SHEETS: Fact sheets are available on the impaired waters from the contacts below or on the DEQ web site at www.deq.virginia.gov/tmdl.

CONTACT FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

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